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## **A Message From Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty, Chairman**

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to submit the 1999 annual report of the Small Business Advocacy Council.

As Lieutenant Governor I am proud to serve as Chairman of the Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC). The council has as its goals; improvement of government relations with small businesses, providing easily accessible information for business owners, and the assistance necessary for small business owners to get started in Rhode Island.

Throughout the year the council has worked to create an effective working relationship with area Chambers of Commerce, other small business advocacy groups and most importantly individual small business owners. Together, under the guidance of the SBAC, issues such as affordable health care, responsible development, access to technical assistance and the monitoring of legislative business initiatives, have been addressed.

The Small Business Advocacy Council can be a valuable tool in helping to foster the development of a stronger small business climate in the state. Working together we can create an economy that not only competes, but excels in the business world of the next millennium.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Fogarty

Lieutenant Governor

Chairman, Small Business Advocacy Council

# **SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

## **BACKGROUND OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

The RI Small Business Advocacy Council was established to bring together leaders from the private and public sectors with the task of addressing the needs of small business owners in the state. The twenty-member council includes elected officials, small business owners, small business advocates, and Chamber of Commerce Directors.

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COUNCIL

1994-1996: Lieutenant Governor Robert Weygand

1996-1998: Lieutenant Governor Bernard A. Jackvony

1999-present: Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL

(Memberships as of December 31, 1999)

Ex-Officio Members

Name	Representing
The Honorable Charles J. Fogarty	Office of the Lieutenant Governor
The Honorable Paul J. Tavares Designee: Gary Bliss	Office of the General Treasurer
The Honorable James L. Langevin Designee: John Palangio	Office of the Secretary of State
Senator Marc Cote	Chairman, Joint Committee On Small Business
Representative Thomas J. Winfield	Vice Chairman, Joint Committee On Small Business
Tom Shumpert, Director	Economic Development Corporation
Dr. Lee H. Arnold Designee: Christine Greico	Department of Labor and Training

### **The Governor's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Alberto LaGreca	Public Member
Mark Pearson	Public Member
Armeather Gibbs	Governor's staff

### **The Lieutenant Governor's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Robert Antignano	Public Member
Janet White	Public Member
Raymond Fogarty	Business related department of higher educational institution

### **The Speaker's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Rep. Joan B. Quick	Jt. Committee On Small Business; Minority Member
Herbert Wiess	Public Member
	Public Member

### **The Senate Majority Leader's Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
John Gregory	Public Member
Jerry Lewis	Public Member

## The Secretary of the State's Appointments

Name	Representing
Tim Reinke	Public Member

## The General Treasurer's Appointments

Name	Representing
Joan Gray	Public Member

### Section 1.

### 1999 THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL REPORT

The Small Business Advocacy Council works in following areas to accomplish its mission: the development and support of legislative initiatives; public information and education and minority issues. During 1999 the full Council held four meetings on the following dates.

May 17

September 29

July 1

December 7

Copies of all Council meetings are maintained in the office of the Lt. Governor. A summary of the Council's 1999 activities in each of the major areas of its work follows.

### ***I. LEGISLATION.***

During the 1999 legislative session the Council took on the role of informing its members of the status of numerous pieces of legislation which had potential effects on small businesses in the state. The Council put together a legislative tracker to update and brief its members of the status of the legislative proposals. In addition, the Council provided a brief summarization of each targeted legislative proposal and distributed it among the members. Copies of the legislative tracker and legislative briefs are available in the Lieutenant Governors office.

## **II. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

At the four meetings held by the Council, various speakers and presentations were scheduled to inform the members of some of the issues and programs targeting the small businessperson. Listed below are the presentations put forth before the council during each 1999 meeting.

### **May 17**

*Kip Bergstrom, Executive Director, Rhode Island Economic Policy Council*

Mr. Bergstrom explained the regional and global economy from the perspective of how Rhode Island will fit into this new commerce market system of trade and transport. He briefly explained the potential impact of a port development at Quonset Point and the impact it may have for area small business. He focused on how Rhode Island can become a contributing partner in the rapidly developing global and regional economy.

### **July 1**

*Scott Wolfe, Executive Director, Grow Smart Rhode Island*

Mr. Wolf discussed the brief history of Grow Smart and its mission statement. He informed the Council that Grow Smart is dedicated to urban revitalization, reduction of suburban sprawl, tax structure redevelopment to favor responsible development and training and educational sessions for local zoning boards. Grow Smart was formed to advocate and assist communities in developing responsible development and work to establish policies and practices which will enable Rhode Island to promote growth in the areas where it can best benefit its citizens.

### **September 29**

*Bryant College Business Services*

The Council met at Bryant College and was given a presentation by the various directors of each branch of the Bryant College Business Center

Network. The following centers were represented:

- Rhode Island Small Business Development Office
- Rhode Island Export Assistance Center
- Bell Atlantic Telecommunications Center
- Center for Design and Business

The Council was given an overview of the services available through the Bryant College Business Center Network.

## **December 7**

### *Rhode Island Manufacturing Extension Services*

*John Cronin, Executive Director*

*Terence L. Charles, Marketing Manager*

Rhode Island Manufacturing Services briefed the Council on the services which they provide to Rhode Island manufacturing businesses and how they work to promote the manufacturing business sector of the state's economy. RIMES is committed to assisting businesses in creating partnerships with other business organizations in order to develop a stronger manufacturing economic base and keep pace with the changing market. They also discussed some progressive outreach programs planned to help guide businesses in the direction to success.

**Creation of Partnerships.** The Council under the direction of the Lt. Gov., in its first year was dedicated to forging working relationships with existing small business services. The Council during the year solidified partnerships with numerous Chambers of Commerce throughout the state, and established an effective medium for outreach to small business companies. In addition, the SBAC worked in conjunction with the Small Business Development Center to promote the services it provides for business assistance and continues to work in attempting to promote diversification among small business services and will continue to do so into the next year.

## **III. MINORITY ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE**

As the Chairman of the Small Business Advocacy Council, the Lt. Governor made a commitment to bring a more diversified membership to the Council. In doing so he formed a Subcommittee to focus on bringing together minority representatives in the small business service sector and discuss the issues facing minority business owners and how the SBAC can be instrumental in addressing the needs expressed. The subcommittee



consists of eight members, who are involved in minority advocacy groups both on the business and community levels. Two meeting were conducted in which numerous approaches to address the needs of the minority business owner were discussed. A consensus was reached among the members to examine the assistance needs of the Broad Street SBDC center.

## **Appendix I**

### **STATUTE ESTABLISHING**

### **THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

#### **CHAPTER 42-91**

**§ 42-91-1 Creation of council.** – There is created and established a "small business advocacy council", hereinafter referred to as the "council".

**§ 42-91-2 Membership of council.** – (a) The council shall consist of twenty (20) members, ten (10) of whom shall be public members, two (2) to be appointed by the governor, two (2) by the

lieutenant governor, two (2) by the speaker of the house, two (2) by the senate majority leader, one by the secretary of state, and one by the general treasurer; provided, however, that all of the public members shall be officers, partners, or proprietors of Rhode Island companies that are small businesses as defined by the United States small business administration; one of whom shall be affiliated with a business-related department of a Rhode Island institution of higher learning, to be appointed by the lieutenant governor; one of whom shall be a minority party member of the joint committee on small business, to be appointed by the speaker of the house; one of whom shall be a member of the governor's staff, to be appointed by the governor; and the chairperson of the joint committee on small business, ex officio; the vice-chairperson of the joint committee on small business, ex officio; the director of the department of economic development, or the director's permanent designee, ex officio; the director of the department of labor and training or the director's permanent designee, ex officio; the secretary of state, or the secretary's permanent designee, ex officio; the general treasurer, or the treasurer's permanent designee, ex officio; and the lieutenant governor, ex officio. The lieutenant governor shall serve as chairperson of the council.

(b) One of the public members appointed by each of the appointing authorities shall be appointed to serve until the first day of June, 1987, and the other to serve until the first day of June, 1988; and all members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. In the month of May in any year in which a public member's term of office expires, the respective appointing authorities shall appoint successors to the members whose terms shall expire in that year, to hold office commencing on the first day of June in the year of appointment for a term of three (3) years or until their respective successors are appointed and qualified. Any vacancy of an appointed member, which may occur in the council, shall be filled by appointment by the respective appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. Ex-officio members shall serve until the end of their term of office; the member of the governor's staff shall serve until the end of the governor's term of office.

- (c) The council shall meet at the call of the lieutenant governor and shall elect from among themselves a vice-chairperson, who shall be one of the public members, and a secretary. The council shall meet at least quarterly during each calendar year.
- (d) The membership shall receive no compensation for their services. The council may request, through the department of economic development, any clerical and technical assistance it may deem necessary to accomplish its purpose.

**§ 42-91-3 Purpose and duties.** – (a) The purpose of the council shall be to develop those specific and comprehensive recommendations for executive and legislative action as may be necessary and proper to maintain and encourage the continued viability of small businesses in the state. To enable it to carry out that purpose, the council shall study the following matters and any others it deems appropriate:

- (1) The problems and needs of small businesses.
- (2) The role of small businesses in creating jobs, and what will assist small businesses in carrying out that role.

**§ 42-91-4 Reports.** – The council shall serve as a continuing advisory body and shall report its recommendations to the governor and general assembly from time to time, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out the recommendations; provided, however, that the council shall file an annual report on or before January 30 each year with the governor and the general assembly.